

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31-33, 35, 37, 39-44, and 46 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 15-17, 30, 31, 45, and 46 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended by Examiner Martin on July 18, 2007 in a personal interview. As discussed in the personal interview, Applicants have amended claim 16 for clarification as to the "length" of the flow fields. Applicants submit that this amendment does not further limit the claims recited, but rather makes clear the terminology of "length" as discussed with the Examiner. Allowance of all pending claims is hereby requested. Additionally, rejoinder of the withdrawn claims is respectfully requested.

#### **1. Claim Objections**

The Office Action objects to claim 30 because of an informality. Applicants submit that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

#### **2. 35 U.S.C. §112**

The Office Action rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**3. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 34, 36, 38, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over *Fujii et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,406,809, hereinafter referred to as "*Fujii*"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in the interview, the lengths of the inlet to outlet portions within *Fujii* are different from the flow fields claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Fujii* does not disclose or suggest fuel flow fields or air flow fields with a length between three and eight times greater than the square root of the area of the first or second bipolar plates.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 34, 36, 38, and 45 depend from claim 16, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**4. Conclusion**

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below if any issues remain in this matter, or if a discussion regarding any portion of the application is desired by the Examiner.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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